

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The claims are 16-28 to which the Examiner has imposed a requirement for restriction. The specification has been amended to correct a clerical error and to change the statutory reference from §120 to §365 in the Cross-Reference to Related Applications.

As stated above, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 16-23 and 28, drawn to a metal cloth for further prosecution, and respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

It is believed that any search for the Invention embodied in Group I would necessarily include a search of the Invention embodied in the remaining Group. Thus, a simultaneous search for all of the Groups is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

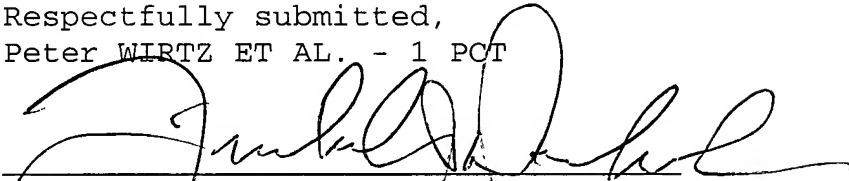
In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the Groups. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because

of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected Invention.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372 be withdrawn, and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,
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